

AMENDMENTS

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-56 (Cancelled)

¹57. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide encoding the protein, wherein the polynucleotide has ~~having~~ at least one of the following properties:

a) it comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof; or

b) it hybridizes at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10; wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF is expressed.

²58. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim ¹57, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.

³59. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim ¹57, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.

⁴60. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim ¹57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof.

⁵61. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim ¹57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

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62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof.
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63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof.
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64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof.
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65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof.
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66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof.
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67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof.
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68. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under-stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.
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69. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under-stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.
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70. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under-stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC

containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.

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71. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim ¹57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under-stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.

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72. (Currently amended) The method of claim ¹57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under-stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.

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73. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim ¹57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under-stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.

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74. (Previously presented) The method of claim ¹57, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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75. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁴60, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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76. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁵61, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim ⁹65, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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78. (Previously presented) The method of claim ¹⁰66, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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~~79~~. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim ~~71~~, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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~~80~~. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim ~~72~~, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.